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 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD. NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 5 Feb. 1952

SUBJECT The German Academy of Sciences, Berlin

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE
ACQUIREDDATE OF
INFO.

Document No. 093

No Change In Class. ☐☐ Declassified

Class. Changed To: TS S/C

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. In the latter part of 1950, a change was introduced in the organization of the Academy. Before that time, policy decisions on Academy matters were made by a plenary session of Academy members (Plenum). The Plenum consisted of about 100 regular members of the Academy, excluding honorary and corresponding members, who have no right to vote.
2. Now the right of voting on policy decisions is vested in a newly-created body, the Praesidium. The Praesidium is composed of the President of the Academy, the two vice-Presidents, the Academy Director, six secretaries of the Academy classes, and a limited number of Academy institute directors. Thus, decisions are now made by a body which is more easily controlled. The change has been explained in inner Academy circles by the statement that the Plenum was full of "reactionary elements."
3. Still another step has been taken behind the scenes to concentrate control over the Academy in the hands of the "progressive elements." Decisions to be taken up by the Praesidium are drafted beforehand by a still smaller body (the Gremium). This group is composed of the Academy director, its administrative director, and the six class "Referenten" (who are not to be confused with class secretaries). To date, the Praesidium has not defeated any Gremium decisions.
4. A description of some leading Academy personalities:

a. The current President of the Academy is Dr. Walter Friedrich, professor of medical physics and radiation research at Berlin Humboldt University, and director of the Academy Institute for Medicine and Biology in Berlin-Buch. Although Friedrich is a member of the SED and loyal to the East regime, he is not entirely trusted by the party authorities.² In the summer of 1951, Friedrich became further distrusted by party authorities when he forbade the activity of the Peace Committee in the Berlin-Buch Institute; he did not do this because of political reasons, but because the "peace activists" disturbed the work of the Institute. Friedrich is now in an ambiguous position: the non-party academicians regard him as a Communist, whereas the party authorities do not trust him.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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b. Academy Director Joseph Naas is a convinced Communist; he has close personal relations with DDR Premier Pieck, Vice-Premier Ulbricht and Education Minister Gandel. Prior to the reformation of the Academy in 1946, the President handled the Director's job. Naas has been Director since 1946. Through him Communist control of the Academy is insured since the President is dependent on election. From 1930-1933, Naas worked at the mathematical institute of Cologne University. He spent several years in concentration camps under the Nazi regime. After the war, he worked in the Central Administration for Education, until he became Academy Director. Naas spent several months in the USSR in 1949, in the USSR again, from September 1950 to January 1951. Naas in reality was not sick during these visits; actually, he visited Russian Academies in Moscow, Leningrad, and in the Ukraine, and was schooled there for his position in Berlin.

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c. Dr. Johannes A. Maikowski is Administrative Director of the Academy. He is a convinced Communist. Maikowski was transferred to the Academy from the science department of the Education Ministry.

d. Only two of the six class "Referenten" are not SED members. Prof. Dr. Otto Meunendorff, Referent for languages, literature, and arts, was Referent prior to 1946, and maintained his position in the reformed Academy. Dr. Johannes Irmscher, Referent for social sciences, is a member of the CDU-East. He is such an eager collaborator that he is "as good as three Communists."³

5. The members of the Academy can be divided into three groups:

a. Those members who enjoy international scientific reputations and thus provide an efficient means of publicity for the Academy. These members enjoy "political fools' freedom" (Marrenfreiheit). They are allowed to criticize and speak more or less openly; some do so often. This group, however, has hardly any influence on important decisions, which are left to reliable Communists. Men such as Prof. Dr. Dr. Theodor Frings, authority on Germanistics, Prof. Dr. Fritz Hartung, historian, and Prof. Dr. Meack, botanist, are included in this group.

b. Those members who are called by the Communists "well-meaning" (Die Gutgesinnten). These are not party members, but yes-men. They help to keep up democratic appearances. This group almost never criticizes official measures. When their votes are needed for propaganda, they invariably concur with the leaders. The group includes academicians such as Prof. Dr. Erich Thilo, chemist, Prof. Dr. Dr. Johannes Stroux, philologist, and Prof. Dr. Hans Hertel, geophysicist.

c. A minority of active party members who rule the other academicians with the support of DDR and Russian authorities. President Dr. Friedrich, agriculture specialist Prof. Dr. Asmus Petersen, and criminal law specialist Prof. Dr. Arthur Baumgarten are representative of the group.⁴

6. Until 1950, the Academy was under the control of the Education Ministry. Since then it has been directly under the authority of the DDR State President. Relations between the Academy and the DDR State Planning Commission are not the best. Prof. Werner Lange, chief of the Science Department in the Planning Commission has repeatedly tried to obtain unlimited governmental control over all research carried on in Academy institutes; this control was to be exerted through the Planning Commission or one of the Industrial Ministries. The demand was met with violent criticism, even from the "yes-men". Although Director Naas agrees with Lange, he has instituted a compromise in order to save the pseudo-democratic and pseudo-independent appearance of the Academy: The Academy institutes plan their own research and carry it out, independent of Lange's department while at the same time the Planning Commission and the Industrial Ministries give research orders (Forschungsaufträge) to the same institutes and finance them through their respective ministerial budgets.⁵

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7. Prior to 1950, Academy funds were allotted from the budget of the Central Administration, later the Ministry of Education. **The Academy now receives its funds directly from the Ministry of Finance.** Every year a budget plan must be submitted to the Ministry of Finance not later than 1 September. The budget is broken down into two sections: a personnel budget plan and a plan for investment in buildings, equipment, materials, etc. The personnel plan submitted 1 September 1951 alone requested between sixteen and twenty million DE.
8. The Russian publication license granted to Akademie Verlag is dependent on delivery to the Soviet Control Commission, Karlshorst, of twenty copies of everything published by AV. The Russians explained that they must forward copies of all AV publications to the Russian Academies. Exchange of publications between the USSR and Berlin Academies, however, has been mainly unilateral; the Berlin Academy has received **Russian publications only** sporadically. Criticism from Academy members in the summer of 1951 led to long negotiations with Nikitin, Russian liaison officer for the Academy. The **decision** was that a two-way attempt should be made: the DDR representative in Moscow would try to obtain the required publications, while the cultural department of the SED would get in touch with the corresponding body of the CPSU. The situation had not improved by October 1951. Direct relations between Russian and German academicians are also practically non-existent.
9. Nikitin, an astronomer, **oversees** the AV, in addition to being liaison officer between the Russians and the Academy. He has two unknown superiors. Nikitin has held his job since 1947, whereas his superiors often change. 25X1 Under Nikitin's influence, the transfer of authority from the Academy Plenum to the Praesidium was carried out.

1. ☐ Comment: Overt information on membership, affiliated institutions, administration and organization is contained in Jahrbuch der Deutschen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, 1946-1949, published by Akademie Verlag, Berlin, 1950. A 1950 yearbook is in print but has not yet been distributed. These yearbooks are distributed to Academy members but are not for sale. 25X1

2. ☐ Comment: Friedrich's election came only after a behind-the-scenes struggle within the Academy. Many members favored Dr. Hans Ertel, geophysics and meteorology professor at Humboldt University. Ertel is not an SED member, but is a willing cooperator. 25X1

3. ☐ Comment: It thus becomes clear why a Gremium composed of Naas, 25X1 Malkowski, and the six referents has been charged with pre-drafting the decisions of the Praesidium. 25X1

4. ☐ Comment: A fourth group is listed as members of the Academy, 25X1 although they have no connection with the present Academy. These are scholars who were on the pre-1946 Academy rolls

5. ☐ Comment: An example is that of Chemist Thilo, who works on 25X1 several research orders for Industrial Ministries in a newly-built Academy building in Berlin-Adlershof; at the same time he carries on a pure research project concerning the color of the ruby.

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